

ON STEADY STATE NEUTRINO HEATED ULTRA-RELATIVISTIC WINDS FROM COMPACT OBJECTS

JASON PRUET¹, GEORGE M. FULLER¹, AND CHRISTIAN Y. CARDALL^{2,3,4}
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ABSTRACT

We study steady state winds from compact objects in the regime where the wind velocity at infinity is ultra-relativistic. This may have relevance to some models of Gamma-Ray-Bursts (GRB's). Particular attention is paid to the case where neutrinos provide the heating. Unless the neutrino luminosity is very large, $L > 10^{54}$ erg/s, the only allowed steady state solutions are those where energy deposition is dominated by neutrino-antineutrino annihilation at the sonic point. In this case, the matter temperature near the neutron star surface is low, less than 1 MeV for typical neutrino luminosities. This is in contrast to the case for sub-relativistic winds discussed in the context of supernovae where the matter temperature near the neutron star approximates the temperature characterizing the neutrinos. We also investigate the setting of the neutron to proton ratio (n/p) in these winds and find that only for large (> 10 MeV) electron neutrino or electron anti-neutrino temperatures is n/p entirely determined by neutrino capture. Otherwise, n/p retains an imprint of conditions in the neutron star.

Subject headings: Stars: Neutron - Gamma-rays: Bursts - Neutrinos

1. INTRODUCTION

We examine properties of ultrarelativistic winds from compact objects and we thereby obtain insights into the special case where these winds arise from neutrino heating. Our principal motivation for the present study is to determine if physically plausible steady state solutions exist in the ultrarelativistic regime and to determine the relation between neutrino parameters and the character of the outflow. A peculiar feature of the steady state ultrarelativistic solutions is that the matter temperature near the neutron star surface is cold. We comment below on whether or not this is physically realizable. We also study how the final neutron to proton ratio (or alternatively electron fraction, $Y_e = 1/(n/p + 1)$), is set in these models. Only for large (> 10 MeV) electron neutrino or electron anti-neutrino temperatures does Y_e in the initial wind material come into steady state equilibrium with the neutrino fluxes.

There is a rich literature concerning steady state outflow from neutron stars. In connection with supernovae the neutrino-driven wind occurring several seconds post core bounce is interesting because it is the favored candidate for the site of the r-process elements (Meyer *et al.* 1992; Woosley *et. al.* 1994; Takahashi, Witt, & Janka 1994). The relation between neutrino parameters and the wind have been extensively discussed (Duncan, Shapiro, & Wassermann 1986; Qian & Woosley 1996). These studies were concerned with gentle, modest entropy winds, characterized by Lorentz factors of order unity far from the star. Near the neutron star surface these gentle winds are well approximated as being in hydrostatic equilibrium. The temperature is set by the competition between neutrino heating and neutrino cooling terms, i.e., the matter temperature is roughly equal to the temperature characterizing the neutrinos. Apart from effects due to nucleosynthesis, the final electron fraction in these gentle winds is set by the ratio of electron neutrino (ν_e) and electron anti-neutrino ($\bar{\nu}_e$) capture rates on nucleons (Qian *et al.* 1993). The general relativistic extension of the wind equations, redshift factors, and neutrino trajectory bending have been discussed by Fuller & Qian (1996), Cardall & Fuller (1997), and Salmonson & Wilson (1999). These works also emphasize subrelativistic outflow velocities. Detailed studies of relativistic effects along these lines for r-process nucleosynthesis have been carried out recently by Otsuki *et al.* (2000).

In a pioneering study Paczyński (1990) examined ultrarelativistic flow from neutron stars relevant for studies of GRB's. In this work no reference was made to a heating term and, except for photon diffusion which is unimportant near the neutron star surface, the flow was assumed adiabatic. This work provided a detailed picture of the wind evolution far from the neutron star surface, which is the regime relevant for optical emission in GRB's. There are many similarities between these steady state ultra-relativistic winds and the fireballs discussed in connection with GRB's (Shemi & Piran 1990).

The present study is an attempt to fill the gap between detailed studies of the relation between neutrino heating and sub-relativistic outflow and the study of ultra-relativistic outflow without reference to a heating mechanism. This is also a detailed look at the ‘guts’ of a simple model for a GRB central engine. It may be applicable to the model proposed by Salmonson, Wilson, & Mathews (1999). In this model binary neutron stars are compressed and heated as gravitational radiation saps orbital kinetic energy during the last seconds of inspiral. The heating drives copious neutrino loss ($L_\nu \sim 10^{52}$ erg s⁻¹) which in turn drives a hot pair plasma from the neutron star surface.

¹ Department of Physics, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, California, 92093-0319

² Physics Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-6354

³ Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996-1200

⁴ Joint Institute for Heavy Ion Research, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-6374

Lastly, it has recently been argued that the electron fraction in neutrino-heated fireballs may be a clue to neutrino physics at the central engine, and may have observable consequences (Fuller, Pruet, & Abazajian 2000). The present study serves as a “proof of concept” of this idea for a simple case. Interestingly, we find that the electron fraction in the wind far from the central engine is set by processes very near the central engine. If this is a generic feature of GRB central engine models, information about the electron fraction in GRB’s may help pin down the central engine.

2. EQUATIONS

The general relativistic equations describing the outflow of material from the neutron star are Euler’s equations:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{u} \cdot (\nabla \mathbf{T}) &= -\mathbf{u} \cdot (\nabla \mathbf{T}_\nu) \\ (\mathbf{g} + \mathbf{u} \otimes \mathbf{u}) \cdot (\nabla \mathbf{T}) &= -(\mathbf{g} + \mathbf{u} \otimes \mathbf{u}) \cdot (\nabla \mathbf{T}_\nu), \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

baryon number conservation,

$$\nabla \cdot (\rho_b \mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{0}, \quad (2)$$

and the change in electron fraction due to lepton capture on baryons,

$$\mathbf{u} \cdot (\nabla \mathbf{Y}_e) = (1 - Y_e) (\lambda_{\nu_e n \rightarrow p} + \lambda_{e^+ n \rightarrow p}) - Y_e (\lambda_{\bar{\nu}_e p \rightarrow n} + \lambda_{e^- p \rightarrow n}). \quad (3)$$

In the above \mathbf{u} is the 4-velocity of the outflowing material, \mathbf{T} and \mathbf{T}_ν are the stress-energy tensors for the outflowing matter and the neutrinos respectively, \mathbf{g} is the metric tensor, and ρ_b is the rest mass energy density of baryons in the plasma comoving frame. In Eq. (3) $\lambda_{\nu_e n \rightarrow p}$ and $\lambda_{\bar{\nu}_e p \rightarrow n}$ are the capture rates for electron anti-neutrinos and electron neutrinos on neutrons and protons respectively, and $\lambda_{e^+ n \rightarrow p}$ and $\lambda_{e^- p \rightarrow n}$ are the capture rates for positrons and electrons on neutrons and protons respectively. In what follows we employ the Schwarzschild metric and use natural units, $G = c = \hbar = k_b = 1$, with k_b the Boltzmann constant. In Schwarzschild coordinates the line element is

$$ds^2 = \mathbf{g}_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu dx^\nu = -(1 - 2M/r) dt^2 + (1 - 2M/r)^{-1} dr^2 + r^2 d\Omega^2, \quad (4)$$

Here M is the mass of the neutron star and $d\Omega^2 = d\theta^2 + \sin^2 \theta d\phi^2$. Imposing steady state conditions and writing the radial component of the 4-velocity u^r as $u^r = vy$ where $y = (1 - 2M/r)^{1/2} / (1 - v^2)^{1/2}$ and v is the outflow velocity of the plasma as measured in an inertial frame at rest in the Schwarzschild coordinate (t, r, θ, ϕ) system allows us to rewrite the equations above as

$$(1 - v^2)a\rho_b = (\rho + P) \left[\frac{vv'}{1 - v^2} + \frac{M}{r^2} \frac{1}{(1 - 2M/r)} \right] + P' \quad (5a)$$

$$q\rho_b = vy \left[\rho' + (\rho + P) \left(\frac{v'}{v(1 - v^2)} + \frac{M}{r^2} \frac{1}{(1 - 2M/r)} + \frac{2}{r} \right) \right] \quad (5b)$$

$$\dot{M} = 4\pi r^2 \rho_b vy \quad (5c)$$

$$vyY'_e = (1 - Y_e) (\lambda_{\nu_e n \rightarrow p} + \lambda_{e^+ n \rightarrow p}) - Y_e (\lambda_{\bar{\nu}_e p \rightarrow n} + \lambda_{e^- p \rightarrow n}). \quad (5d)$$

In the above, primes denote differentiation with respect to r , and ρ and P are the total energy density (including rest mass) and pressure, respectively, of the plasma in the comoving plasma frame. We have also introduced $a = -((\mathbf{g} + \mathbf{u} \otimes \mathbf{u}) \cdot (\nabla \mathbf{T}_\nu))_r / \rho_b$ and $q = -\mathbf{u} \cdot (\nabla \mathbf{T}_\nu) / \rho_b$ which are respectively the momentum and energy deposition into the plasma per unit time per unit baryon rest mass. \dot{M} is the mass outflow rate. The second law of thermodynamics and some algebra allows us to produce from these expressions two more first integrals of the flow:

$$\frac{ds}{dr} = \frac{m_b q}{Tvy} \quad (6)$$

$$\frac{d(\hat{H}y)}{dr} = y ((1 - v^2)a + q/(vy)). \quad (7)$$

Here we have introduced the nucleon mass m_b , the entropy per baryon s (in units of Boltzmann’s constant), and the enthalpy $\hat{H} = (\rho + P)/\rho_b$ of the plasma. It is useful to have explicit formulas for these quantities:

$$s = 5.21 \rho_8^{-1} \left(\frac{T}{\text{MeV}} \right)^3 \quad (8a)$$

$$\hat{H} - 1 \equiv H = \frac{Ts}{m_b} \quad (8b)$$

In this equation ρ_8 is the density in units of 10^8 g cm^{-3} . The number 5.21 above becomes 1.89 as T decreases below the threshold for pair production. In writing Eqs. 8a and 8b we have assumed that the electrons are non-degenerate and that

the entropy of light particles dominates the entropy of nucleons (i.e. $s > 20$). This is relevant for our analysis because we will be concerned principally with conditions near the sonic point, and we will show below that low entropy conditions near the sonic point cannot lead to ultrarelativistic flow at infinity. The quantity H is related to the quantity η , the ratio of energy density to rest mass energy density often discussed in connection with GRB's, through $\eta \sim (3/4)H + 1$.

If the flow is to be relativistic at infinity it must either be supersonic at the neutron star surface or pass through a sonic point somewhere above the neutron star. In the present work we focus on the case where the flow is not already supersonic at the neutron star surface. For the case of nondegenerate electrons and negligible baryon pressure ($s > 20$) the equation governing v' can be written as

$$\frac{1}{v(1-v^2)} (1+H)(v^2 - v_s^2) v' = \frac{1}{r} \left[\frac{2}{3} H - (1+2H/3)(M/r) \frac{1}{1-2M/r} + ar(1-v^2) - \frac{qr}{3u^r} \right] \quad (9)$$

From this equation we see that at the sonic point the following conditions must be satisfied,

$$v^2 = v_s^2 = \frac{H}{3} \frac{1}{H+1} \quad (10a)$$

and

$$(1-g(r)) \frac{2}{3} H = g(r) + \frac{qr}{3u^r} - (1-v^2) ar. \quad (10b)$$

In this last equation we have introduced

$$g(r) \equiv M/(r-2M) \quad (11)$$

and $v_s^2 = (dp/d\rho)$ is the sound speed with the differentiation taken at constant entropy.

Eq. (10b) implies that at the sonic point $qr/u^r H < g(r)$. This is interesting because the change in entropy of the outflowing gas past the sonic point is implicitly given by

$$\int \frac{ds}{s} = \int \frac{qm_b}{Ts} \frac{dr}{u^r} = \int \frac{qdr}{u^r H} < \left(\frac{qr}{u^r H} \right)_{\text{sonic}} \sim 1, \quad (12)$$

Here the subscript s denotes values at the sonic point and the second to last inequality holds if $q/u^r H$ decreases more rapidly than r^{-1} . When the inequality in Eq. (12) holds, then, the entropy is approximately constant past the sonic point. Because the hydrodynamic equations imply that $3T'/T = s'/s - 2/r - (u'^r/u^r)$, the inequalities in Eq. (12) also imply that the temperature cannot increase substantially past the sonic point for accelerating flow. This implies that the enthalpy per baryon is roughly constant or decreasing past the sonic point. We then arrive at the important result that the final Lorentz factor of the wind is not much larger than the value of H at the sonic point when the above inequality is satisfied. (The final Lorentz factor of the wind occurs when the energy in relativistic particles $\sim H\rho_b$ has been converted to baryon kinetic energy.) This will allow us to make important conclusions regarding the sonic point conditions needed in order that the final flow be relativistic.

We can roughly divide the possible sonic point solutions into two families: those for which the terms involving the heating and momentum deposition terms q and a may be neglected (Family I), and those for which these terms are important in determining the conditions at the sonic point (Family II). As we will show that the neutrino energy deposition terms satisfy the inequalities in Eq. (12) when H and u^r increase with radius, only family II solutions can support steady state ultrarelativistic flow. An exception to this occurs when the sonic radius is very near $3M$. Previous discussions of steady state winds from neutron stars have focused on family I solutions. For these solutions $H \sim (3/2)M/(r-3M)$ at the sonic point, and hence the sonic point must be near $3M$ in order to produce ultrarelativistic flow in the absence of heating terms (Paczynski 1990). For neutrino driven wind studies relevant for the r-process the heating terms are generally not important near the sonic point simply because those flows are subrelativistic or mildly relativistic, so that the sonic point occurs far from the neutron star where neutrino heating has fallen off.

For Family II solutions (those where heating determines the sonic point conditions and drives the flow relativistic) some general observations can be made. If we assume that $H(r_s) \gg H(r_0)$ and $s(r_{\text{sonic}}) \gg s(r_0)$ (where r_{sonic} is the Schwarzschild radial coordinate of the sonic point and r_0 is the initial radial coordinate of the flow, usually taken to be the neutron star radius here) then the sonic point condition and Eq. 7 imply

$$\int_{r_0}^{r_{\text{sonic}}} \frac{yq}{u^r} \equiv y_{\text{eff}} \int_{r_0}^{r_{\text{sonic}}} \frac{q}{u^r} \sim \left(\frac{yqr}{2u^r(1-g)} \right)_{\text{sonic}}. \quad (13)$$

In Eq. 13 we have defined y_{eff} , we have assumed that $(1-g)H \gg 1$ at the sonic point, and we have neglected the momentum deposition term a . Eq. 13 serves to specify the position of the sonic radius given a heating term q and a velocity profile. If $q/u^r \propto r^{-\beta}$ (which occurs in steady state winds if the heating rate per unit volume drops as $r^{-\beta-2}$) the sonic point occurs at

$$\frac{r_{\text{sonic}}}{r_0} \sim \left(\frac{2(\beta-1)y_{\text{sonic}}}{y_{\text{eff}}(1-g_{\text{sonic}})} + 1 \right)^{1/(\beta-1)}, \quad (14)$$

which implies that the sonic point occurs near r_0 for rapidly dropping heating terms. Again the momentum deposition term a has been neglected in this approximation. Another interesting property of these winds is that the temperature does not vary greatly within the sonic radius if q is a decreasing function of radius. This is seen by noting that Eqs. 6 and 13 imply

$$T_s^{-1} \sim \left(\frac{y_s}{y_{eff}} \right) \frac{\int_{r_0}^{r_{sonic}} q/T u^r}{\int_{r_0}^{r_{sonic}} q/u^r}, \quad (15)$$

which allows us to define an effective temperature within the sonic point, $T_{eff} = T_s y_s / y_{eff}$.

The above equations allow us to extract the properties of ultrarelativistic steady state winds for arbitrary heating functions. We now turn to the particular case where neutrinos from the central compact object are responsible for the heating.

3. NEUTRINO DRIVEN ULTRA-RELATIVISTIC WINDS

Perhaps the first question raised by a study of steady state neutrino-heated wind solutions is whether or not these winds are physically realizable for conventional compact objects. There are two parts to this question: i) whether or not steady state can be achieved; and ii) whether or not the flow can be relativistic. We defer consideration of the second part until later, when we discuss mass ablation from the neutron star surface. While a hydrodynamic simulation is needed to determine the timescale to achieve steady state in these winds, a rough estimate is that the equilibration timescale is of order the sound crossing time between the sonic radius and the neutron star surface, $\sim 10^{-4}$ s. This timescale is short compared to the neutrino diffusion timescale, which is of the order of seconds. The neutrino diffusion timescale governs the evolutionary timescale of the neutron star unless it undergoes a phase transition or becomes dynamically unstable. It is known that for most cold neutron star equations of state general relativistic instability sets in for $r \sim 3M$. Below this radius the star becomes dynamically unstable and collapses on a dynamic timescale which is comparable to the equilibration timescale given above. For these small radius stars, then, it may not be sensible to put much stock in a steady state wind solution.

Before describing in some detail properties of the allowed steady state solutions, we must first examine the neutrino energy deposition terms. To parametrize the neutrinos we make the usual assumption that the neutrinos are emitted from a neutrinosphere with some radius r_0 (in this work we do not make a distinction between neutrinosphere radius and neutron star radius) and are characterized at the neutrinosphere by a Fermi-Dirac black body energy distribution with temperature T and zero chemical potential,

$$f_\nu = \frac{1}{e^{-E/T} + 1}. \quad (16)$$

This is a crude approximation to the actual expected energy spectra but suffices to mock-up the energy deposition physics (see Cardall & Fuller (1997)). We further make the free streaming approximation, i.e. we neglect the fact that the neutrinos suffer a small depletion with increasing radius owing to interactions with the outflowing plasma. The facts that real neutron stars are characterized by some small but finite decoupling region over which the neutrino distribution function continues to evolve and that neutrinos from real neutron stars are in general non-thermal or better characterized by degenerate spectra are not important for our arguments. For a discussion of when it is appropriate to treat the neutrino as sharply decoupling from a neutrinosphere see Salmonson & Wilson (1999).

Evaluating $\nabla \mathbf{T}_\nu$ for various neutrino plasma interactions is most easily accomplished by noting that Liouville's theorem implies that in an inertial frame at rest at some Schwarzschild coordinate r the neutrino distribution function is characterized by the red-shifted temperature

$$T_\nu(r) = T_\nu(r_0) \left(\frac{1 - 2M/r_0}{1 - 2M/r} \right)^{1/2} \equiv h T_\nu(r_0), \quad (17)$$

(see Fuller & Qian (1996)) which also serves to define the redshift factor h , and a maximum angle of deviation from the radial direction given by

$$\cos \theta_{max} \equiv x = \left(1 - \left(\frac{r_0}{r} \right)^2 \frac{1 - 2M/r}{1 - 2M/r_0} \right)^{1/2}. \quad (18)$$

The mass M of the neutron star appears in the expression for x because of the bending of null trajectories in the Schwarzschild geometry as has been discussed by Cardall & Fuller (1997) and Salmonson & Wilson (1999).

In an inertial frame at rest in Schwarzschild coordinates, the contribution to $\nabla \mathbf{T}_\nu \equiv (\mathbf{Q}_{\nu\bar{\nu}}^{\hat{0}}, \mathbf{Q}_{\nu\bar{\nu}}^{\hat{r}})$ from neutrino-antineutrino annihilation is

$$\begin{aligned} Q_{\nu\bar{\nu}}^{\hat{0}} &= \frac{G_F^2}{9(2\pi)^5} C T_\nu(r)^4 T_{\bar{\nu}}(r)^4 F_4(0) F_3(0) (T_\nu(r) + T_{\bar{\nu}}(r)) \Phi(x) \\ Q_{\nu\bar{\nu}}^{\hat{r}} &= \frac{G_F^2}{9(2\pi)^5} C T_\nu(r)^4 T_{\bar{\nu}}(r)^4 F_4(0) F_3(0) (T_\nu(r) + T_{\bar{\nu}}(r)) \Psi(x) / 4 \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

In the above $\Phi(x) = (x - 1)^4(x^2 + 4x + 5)$, $\Psi(x) = (x - 1)^4(x + 1)(3x^2 + 9x + 8)$, G_F is the Fermi constant, and hats are used to denote quantities in an inertial frame at rest in the Schwarzschild coordinate system. The quantities $F_3(0) = 7\pi^4/120$ and $F_4(0) \approx 23.3$ are the Fermi-integrals of argument zero. The quantity C depends on the neutrino species. For $\nu_e \bar{\nu}_e$ annihilation $C = (1 + 2\sin^2 \theta_w)^2 + 4\sin^4 \theta_w$ where θ_w is the Weinberg angle ($\sin^2 \theta_w \approx 0.23$), while for $\nu_\mu \bar{\nu}_\mu$ and $\nu_\tau \bar{\nu}_\tau$ annihilation $C = (1 - 2\sin^2 \theta_w)^2 + 4\sin^4 \theta_w$. For simplicity in what follows we will assume that the luminosity of a single neutrino flavor gives all $\nu\bar{\nu}$ annihilation heating and that for this flavor the neutrino and antineutrino temperatures are equal, $T_\nu = T_{\bar{\nu}}$. We will refer to this single neutrino flavor as μ or τ . This is merely a calculational device designed to reproduce the total heating rate from all neutrino flavors and adjusted accordingly for sensitivity studies.

Making a transformation back to Schwarzschild coordinates, we find that $\rho_b q_{\nu\bar{\nu}} = (1 - v^2)^{-1/2} Q_{\nu\bar{\nu}}^0 (1 - v\Psi/4\Phi)$ and $\rho_b a_{\nu\bar{\nu}} = (1 - v^2)^{-1} (1 - 2M/r)^{-1/2} Q_{\nu\bar{\nu}}^0 (\Psi/4\Phi - v)$. The terms entering the right hand side of the sonic point condition are then

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{rq_{\nu\bar{\nu}}}{3u^r} &= \frac{10^{-9}r_6}{(1 - v^2)^{1/2}u^r} \frac{(T_\nu(r)/\text{MeV})^9}{(T/\text{MeV})^4} \Phi H \left(1 - \frac{v\Psi}{4\Phi}\right) \\ a_{\nu\bar{\nu}} (1 - v^2) r &= \frac{3 \cdot 10^{-8}r_6}{(1 - 2M/r)^{1/2}} \frac{(T_\nu(r)/\text{MeV})^9}{(T/\text{MeV})^4} \Phi H \left(\frac{\Psi}{4\Phi} - v\right), \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

where $r_6 = r/10^6\text{cm}$.

Evaluation of the contribution to $(\nabla \mathbf{T}_\nu)$ from neutrino-plasma interactions is complicated by the fact that an inertial observer comoving with the outflowing plasma sees a neutrino distribution function whose temperature varies with direction as $T_\nu(r)(1 - v \cos \theta)/(1 - v^2)^{1/2}$. The effect of this velocity (and direction) dependent redshift is to make the neutrino-plasma heating rates small as the outflow velocity becomes large. We will show that neutrino-antineutrino annihilation is the dominant heating term for the conditions of interest here. It suffices for us to note that in the limit where $v = 0$, the contributions to $(\nabla \mathbf{T}_\nu)$ from neutrino-electron scattering and neutrino capture on baryons are, respectively,

$$q_{\nu e} \sim 10 q_{\nu\bar{\nu}} \frac{T^4}{T_\nu^4} \frac{1}{h^4} \frac{1-x}{\Phi} \quad (21)$$

if $T < T_\nu$, and

$$q_{\nu b} \sim 10^3 q_{\nu\bar{\nu}} \frac{T^4 (T_{\nu_e}^6 Y_e + T_{\nu_e}^6 (1 - Y_e))}{m_b h^3 H T_\nu^9} \frac{1-x}{\Phi}. \quad (22)$$

Note that all of these heating terms satisfy the inequality in Eq. (12) if H increases with radius. Neutrino-Antineutrino annihilation satisfies Eq. (12) because $q_{\nu\bar{\nu}}/H \sim \Phi r^2/(\dot{M}H)$ which falls more rapidly than r^{-6} . Neutrino electron scattering satisfies Eq. (12) because $q_{\nu e}/H \sim (1-x) \sim r^{-2}$. Neutrino capture on baryons also satisfies this condition because $q_{\nu b}/H \sim (1-x)/H$. These estimates for the scaling of the heating rates with radius neglect the dependence of the heating on the redshift factor h . This implies that the heating rates decrease even more rapidly with increasing radius if the wind is accelerating. This means that if the final flow is to be ultra-relativistic, we must have $H > 1$ at the sonic point, i.e., either $r_{\text{sonic}} \sim 3M$, or,

$$T \sim 1 \text{ MeV} \left(\frac{r_6 \Phi (1-g) (T_\nu(r)/10\text{MeV})^9}{u^r} \right)^{1/4} \quad (23a)$$

for $\nu\bar{\nu}$ annihilation dominating the heating, or

$$T_\nu > 40 \text{ MeV} h^{-1} \left(\frac{1-g}{r_6(1-x)} \right)^{1/5} \quad (23b)$$

if electron-neutrino scattering dominates the heating rate, or,

$$T_\nu > 30 \text{ MeV} h^{-1} \left(\frac{1-g}{r_6(1-x)} \right)^{1/6} \quad (23c)$$

if neutrino capture on baryons dominates. In Eqs. (23a, 23b, and 23c) the values of all quantities are taken at the sonic point.

Unless the sonic radius occurs near $3M$ ($g \sim 1$), the neutrino temperatures needed to drive steady state ultrarelativistic flow imply extraordinary neutrino luminosities. (For example, consider the cases inherent in Eqs. 23b and 23c, $L \approx 10^{54} r_6^2 (T_\nu/20\text{MeV})^4 \text{erg/s.}$) In what follows we therefore restrict ourselves to the case where $\nu\bar{\nu}$ annihilation dominates the heating at the sonic point and where only smaller, more realistic, neutrino luminosities are required.

3.1. Steady state flow when $\nu\bar{\nu}$ annihilation dominates at the sonic point

Having determined that for modest neutrino luminosities ($L < 10^{54}\text{ergs}^{-1}$) ultrarelativistic steady state flow only occurs if $\nu\bar{\nu}$ annihilation heating dominates at the sonic point, we now turn to a discussion of the behavior of these solutions.

For $\nu\bar{\nu}$ annihilation the heating scales as $q/u^r \propto \Phi r^2 h^9 + O(v)$ and the sonic radius is readily estimated. This is shown in Fig. 1. From this figure we see that the sonic radius is generically near r_0 . Because $q_{\nu\bar{\nu}}/u^r$ decreases rapidly with radius we may approximate $y_{\text{eff}} \approx y(r_0)$ and $T_{\text{eff}} \approx T(r_0) \approx (y_{\text{sonic}}/y_{\text{eff}})T_{\text{sonic}}$, which implies that the temperature is “cold” within the sonic radius so long as thermal neutrino energy losses are unimportant. Here “cold” means smaller than the neutrino energy distribution temperatures.

The mass ablation rate for $\nu\bar{\nu}$ dominated solutions is

$$\dot{M} \approx 10^{-4} (M_{\odot}\text{s}^{-1}) \left(\frac{r_6^3 \Phi (1-g)(T_{\nu}(r)/10\text{MeV})^9}{H} \right)_{\text{sonic}}. \quad (24)$$

If \dot{M} is too large the flow cannot be relativistic. This is the “baryon loading problem” discussed in connection with GRB’s. The relation between \dot{M} and the neutrino heating rates depends in detail on the structure of the compact object atmosphere below, above, and through the neutrinosphere. As argued by Fryer & Woosley (1998), obtaining a sufficiently low \dot{M} may be particularly difficult for $\nu\bar{\nu}$ energy deposition because this heating rate drops so rapidly with radius. This requires the density scale height above the neutrinosphere to be small. For type II supernovae, calculations show that $\dot{M} \approx \dot{E}_{\nu}/(GM/r_0)$, where \dot{E}_{ν} is the integrated neutrino energy deposition rate (Woosley et. al. 1994). This implies that most of the neutrino energy deposition goes into extracting baryons from the gravitational potential well of the neutron star. For supernovae, then, ultra-relativistic winds are not expected unless the early-time density scale height is smaller than expected or the late time neutrino luminosities are larger than expected. Fryer & Woosley (1998) have argued that the baryon loading problem cannot be overcome for mass ejection from strange stars resulting from the phase transition of a cooling or accreting neutron star while Salmonson, Wilson, & Mathews (1999) have argued that neutrino heating during the compression of an inspiralling neutron star might lead to ultrarelativistic flow. The question must be considered for each proposed GRB site.

An estimate of T_{eff} allows a simple determination of the influence of neutrino capture on the electron fraction in the outflow. Noting that the number of neutrino captures per baryon n_c is approximately given by $dn_c = dr q_{\nu b}/(T_{\nu} u^r)$, where $\nu = \nu_e$ or $\bar{\nu}_e$ for neutrino capture on neutrons or protons, gives the total number of neutrino captures per baryon between the neutron star surface and the sonic point

$$n_c \approx 10^{-6} r_6 (h^5 (1-g)(1-x))_{\text{sonic}} (T_{\nu_e}^5 + T_{\bar{\nu}_e}^5) \ln(s_{\text{sonic}}/s_0), \quad (25)$$

where s_{sonic} and s_0 are the entropy at the sonic point and neutron star surface, respectively. With this expression we can solve for the final electron fraction in the fireball, neglecting e^+/e^- capture because of the low plasma temperature. Representative solutions are shown in Fig.2. This figure serves to illustrate the basic features of how the final electron fraction is set: i) For low $T_{\nu_e}, T_{\bar{\nu}_e}$, Y_e simply remains what it was in the neutron star. ii) As $T_{\nu_e}, T_{\bar{\nu}_e}$ increase, the final Y_e tends toward equilibrium with respect to neutrino capture (i.e. $Y_e \rightarrow T_{\nu_e}^5/(T_{\nu_e}^5 + T_{\bar{\nu}_e}^5)$), while still retaining some memory of the value of the electron fraction in the neutron star crust. And iii) For T_{ν_e} or $T_{\bar{\nu}_e} > 10\text{MeV}$, Y_e is set ultimately by the competition between ν_e and $\bar{\nu}_e$ captures. If the neutrino temperatures are high and neutrinos set the electron fraction in the outflow, the final electron fraction is expected to be low because the neutrinos emitted from a neutron rich star generically satisfy the temperature hierarchy $T_{\nu_e} \leq T_{\bar{\nu}_e}$. Because neutron star crusts typically have $Y_e < 0.1$, the electron fraction in the outflow is also expected to be low even when neutrino capture does not set the final electron fraction.

A numerical example of a steady state neutrino heated wind leading to ultrarelativistic flow is shown in Fig 3. For this example we have taken $M = 1.4M_{\odot}$, $r_0 = 4M$, $T_{\nu_{\mu}} = T_{\bar{\nu}_{\mu}} = 10\text{MeV}$, and $\eta = 4/3H = 100$ at the sonic point. As the wind behavior shown in figure 1 is quite independent of H (except of course for the baryon density which scales trivially with H) as long as $H >$ a few, we have only shown a single numerical example. The sonic radius can be chosen to match a particular entropy at the neutron star surface. Increasing r_{sonic} increases the entropy at the surface. The value of the surface entropy is very sensitive to changes in r_{sonic} . Numerically, for r_{sonic} too large, the scale height for velocity changes becomes very small and the integration fails. Physically, the sonic radius is set by the requirement that the energy flow \dot{E} at the sonic radius equals the net neutrino energy deposition rate interior to the sonic radius. Our plot only extends out to $r \approx 3r_0$. Past this radius neutrino energy deposition is unimportant and the flow satisfies the simple scaling laws given in Piran, Shemi, & Narayan (1993). The final Lorentz factor of the wind is approximately 150.

4. CONCLUSIONS

We have extended the study of steady state winds from compact objects to include the case where the wind is driven by a heating term and the wind velocity at infinity is ultra-relativistic. We find that for heating rates per unit volume which drop more rapidly than r^{-3} , the sonic point condition is dominated by the heating and momentum deposition terms, the sonic radius is near the compact object radius, and the temperature within the sonic radius is roughly constant.

Particular attention has been paid to the case where the wind is driven principally by neutrino energy deposition. For these winds neutrino anti-neutrino annihilation dominates the heating unless the neutrino luminosity is very large ($\sim 10^{54}\text{ergs}^{-1}$). Interestingly, then, for a given neutrino luminosity there are an infinite family of steady state supersonic solutions. On one branch of this family is the usual subrelativistic solution discussed for supernovae, and on the other

their exists a continuum of ultra-relativistic solutions dominated by neutrino heating at the sonic point. Of course, the low mass ablation rate needed for the ultra-relativistic solutions may not be compatible with the structure of the atmosphere of the compact object near the neutrinosphere. This needs to be investigated for each compact object.

The way in which the electron fraction is set in the steady state winds we have discussed depends sensitively on the neutrino luminosity, with the number of neutrino captures per baryon varying as the fifth power of the neutrino temperature and depending only logarithmically on the final Lorentz factor of the outflow. For high ν_e or $\bar{\nu}_e$ temperatures the final electron fraction is set by neutrino capture. Otherwise Y_e remembers its value in the neutron star crust. At least for a simple case, then, the electron fraction in the outflow is a diagnostic of conditions within the central engine. This is interesting because *a priori* one might guess that the electron fraction comes to equilibrium at $Y_e = 1/2$, or is always dominated by neutrino capture, as is the case for supernovae. It is also interesting because recently (Bahcall & Meszaros 2000) it has been argued that neutrinos arising from pion decay in GRB fireballs may be detectable. This neutrino signal depends, along with the other parameters characterizing the fireball, on the electron fraction in the fireball. If more realistic GRB central engine models also leave their finger prints in the electron fraction in the outflow, such a signal might be used to distinguish between central engine models.

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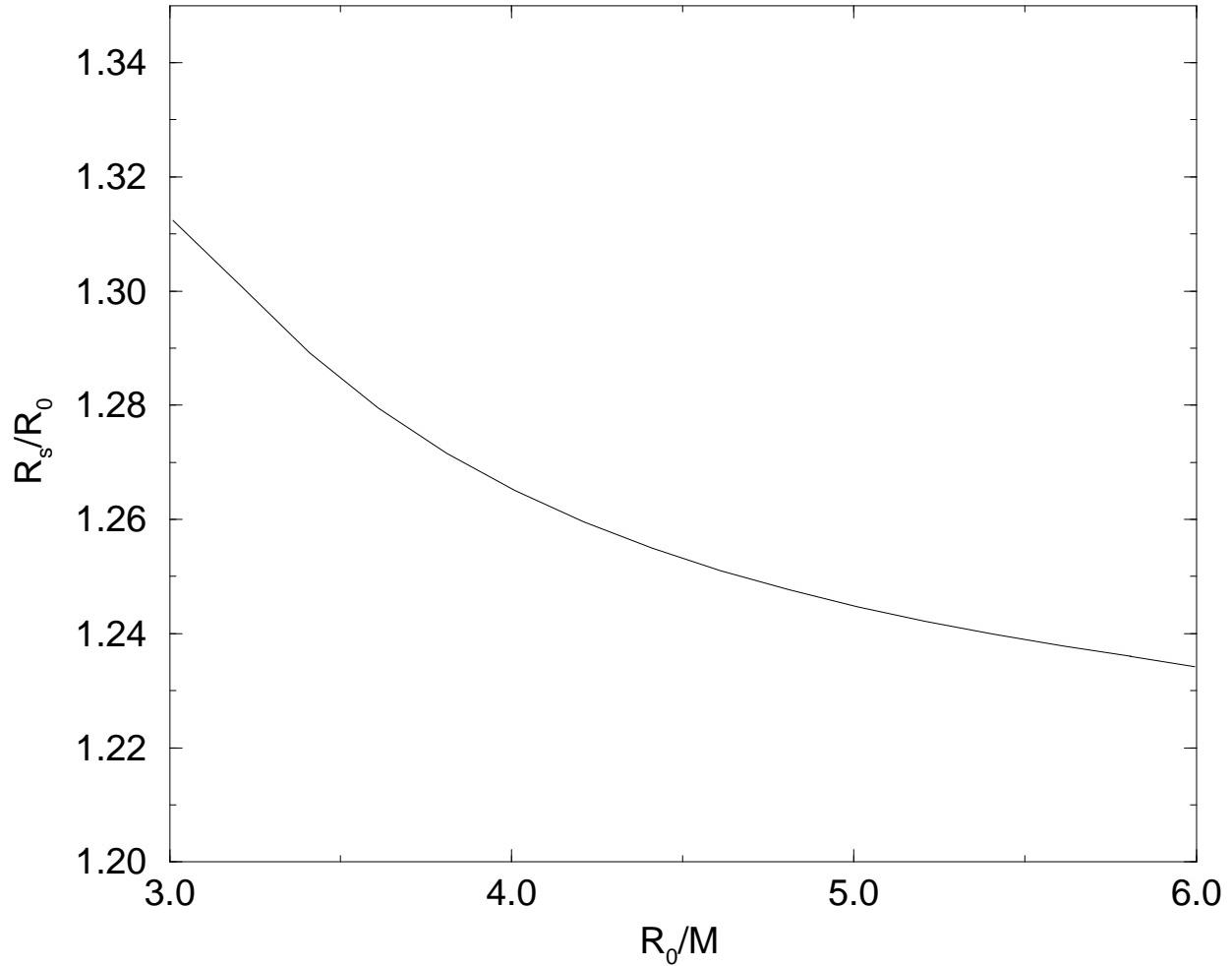


FIG. 1.— Approximate position of the the sonic point as a function of r_0/M for neutrino anti-neutrino annihilation dominating the heating term within the sonic radius. The momentum deposition term a has been neglected and it is assumed that at the sonic point $H(1 - g) \gg 1$.

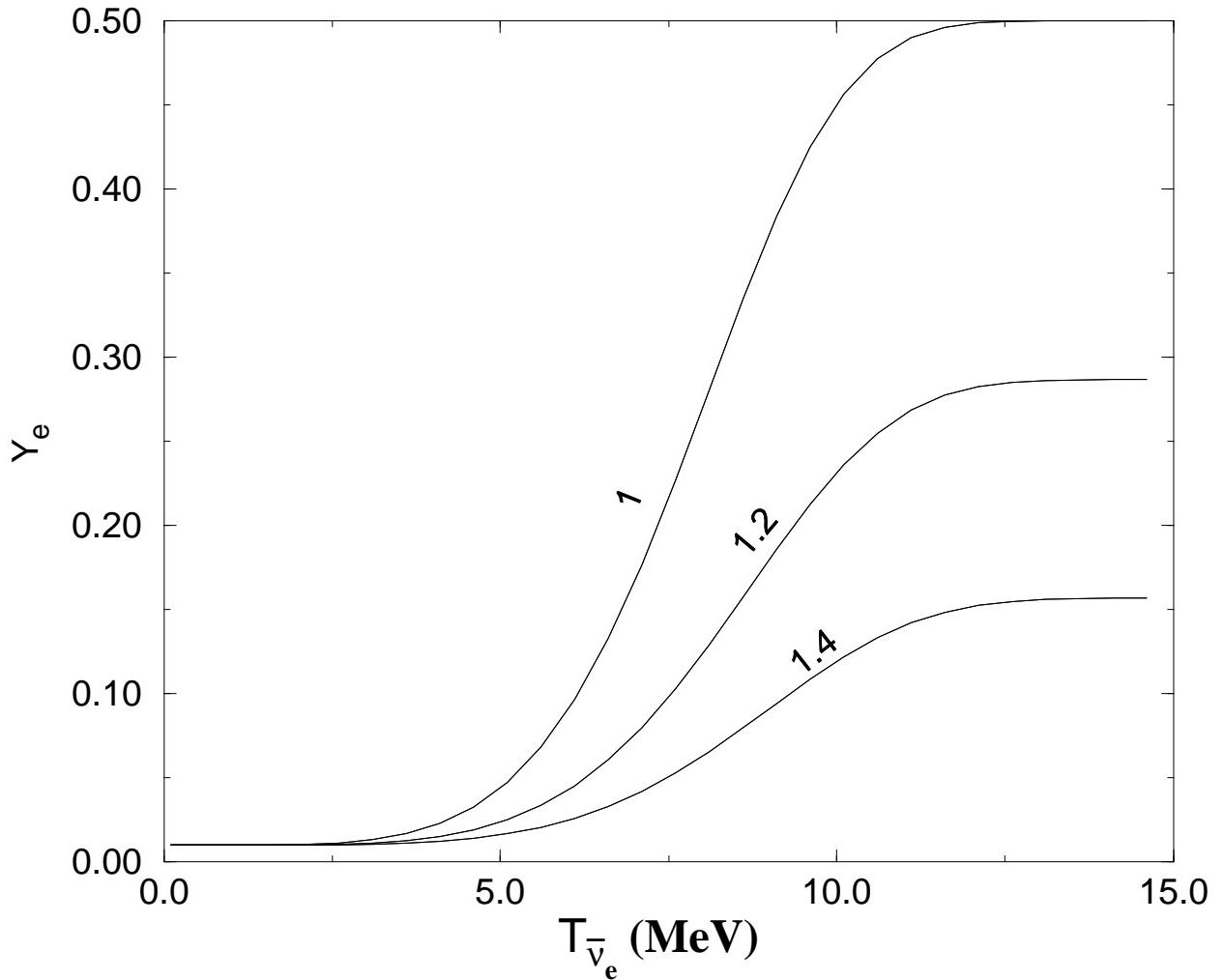


FIG. 2.— Final electron fraction in the fireball as a function of $T_{\bar{\nu}_e}$ and for different ratios $T_{\bar{\nu}_e}/T_{\nu_e}$ (labeled next to the curves). The initial electron fraction is taken to be 0.01, and the entropy of the plasma is assumed to increase by a factor of 10^5 as the plasma travels from the neutron star surface to the sonic point.

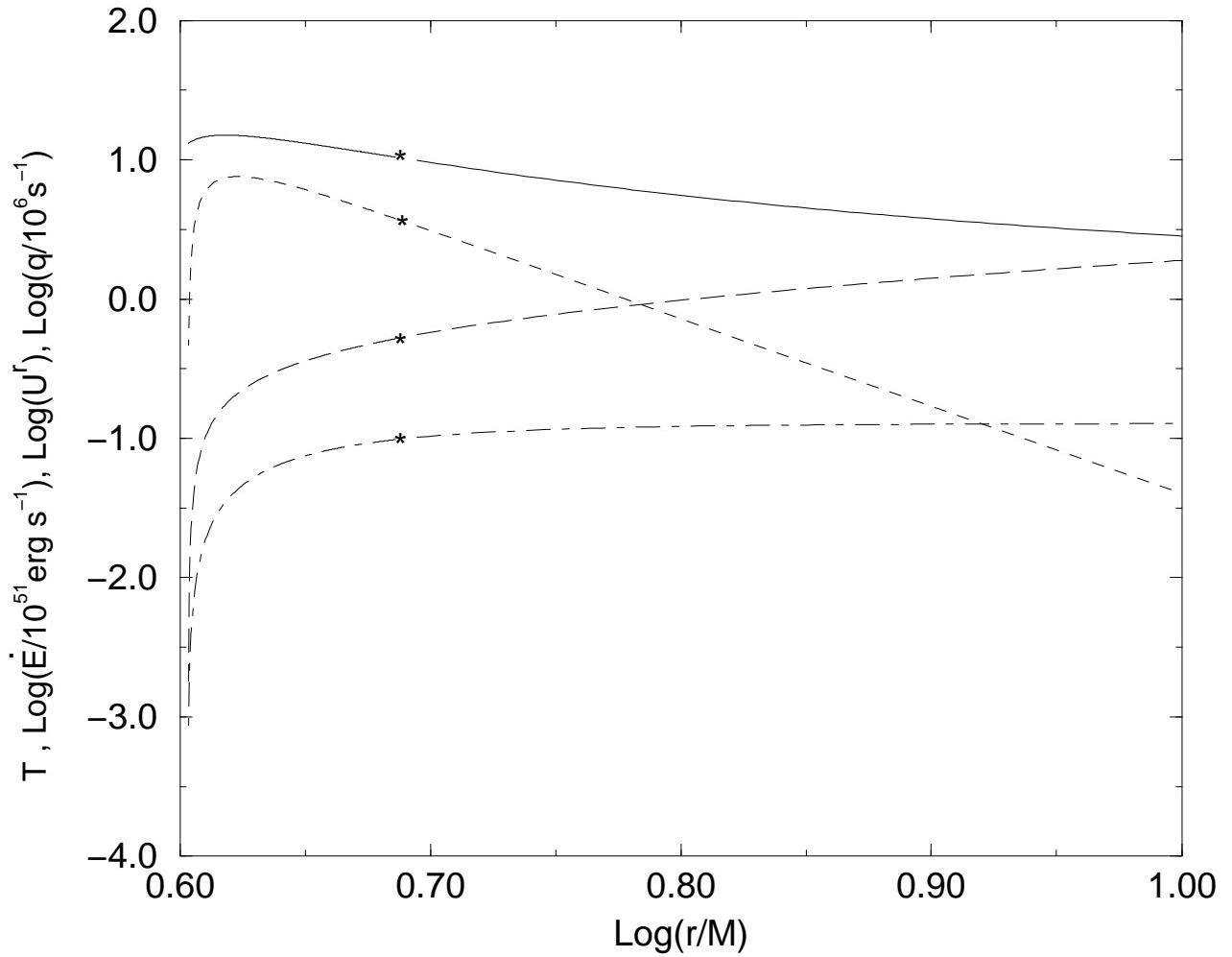


FIG. 3.— Evolution of a neutrino heated wind solution as described in the text. The solid curve is for temperature (in MeV), the short dashed curve for $q_{\nu\bar{\nu}}$, the long dashed curve for U^r , and the dot-dashed curve for $\dot{E} = \dot{M}\hat{H}y$. The asterices correspond to the position of the sonic point.